

Charles Johnson Jr., 64

Charles Johnson Jr., 64, of Malcom, lost his long, hard fought battle with cancer on Friday, June 27, 2008, in the Hospice unit of the Grinnell Regional Medical Center, with his wife, Bonnie, by his side.

According to his wishes, his body has been cremated.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 11, at Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa with Hospice Chaplain Susan Sanning officiating.

A light luncheon will be served following the service at the McVay Community Center in New Sharon.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at Bates Funeral Home, 114 S. Seventh St., Oskaloosa. Arrangements are by the Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa.

Charles was born Sept. 16, 1943, in Bakersfield, Calif., the son of Charles Henry and Letha Mae (Slycord) Johnson. From infancy to his teen years, Charles was raised by his grandparents, Obediah and Mary Ethel Steele. Early in his adult life he worked road construction, and during this time he helped with the construction of Interstate 80. He also worked for Ahrens Manufacturing in Grinnell.

Charles was drafted into the United States Army and served three tours of duty in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry. He was a highly decorated war veteran receiving many medals and honors; including two purple hearts. He also served as a casket guard for the late President Harry S. Truman's funeral.

Upon his discharge from the Army, Charles returned to working road construction. He moved to Craig, Colo., for a time and worked for the Moffet County schools, and then later worked as a stonemason.

On May 10, 1990, he was united in marriage to Bonnie Tolles in Oskaloosa. He returned to Iowa and worked several different places including: Super 8 Motel in Des Moines, Victor Manufacturing, Kinze Manufacturing, and lastly Williamsburg Manufacturing, retiring in 2003, due to ill health. He enjoyed spending time in the outdoors and hunting. He was a member of the American Legion.

His family includes: his wife, Bonnie Johnson of Malcom; a stepson, Gary Tolles of Delta; a daughter, Tammy Mullins of Liberty, Texas; his mother, Letha Foreman of Marshalltown; a granddaughter, Keri Tolles of Oskaloosa; three great-grandchildren: Reona Stout, Moriah Stout and Tyson Stout Jr.; four brothers: David (Karen) Johnson of Grand River, Dennis (Roberta) Johnson of Newton, Steve (Sheryl) Johnson of Pleasant Hope, Mo., and Kent (Becky) Johnson of Columbia, Mo.; a sister, Mary (Jim) Cocking of West Des Moines; and many nieces and nephews.

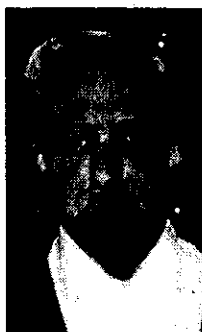
He was preceded in death by his father, his grandparents, two step-daughters: Stephanie and Andrea Tolles, and a sister, Candice O'Malley.

A memorial fund has been established for the family.



BC 7/9/08

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